

CLAIMS

I claim:

[c1] 1. A fireplace assembly, comprising:
a fireplace housing having an interior fire containment area and an opening
in communication with the fire containment area; and
a cover panel covering at least a portion of the opening, the cover panel
being configured to have a first transmittance of light therethrough in
a first direction and a second transmittance of light therethrough in a
second direction, where in the second transmittance is greater than
the first transmittance.

[c2] 2. The assembly of claim 1 wherein light traveling in the first direction
travels from an area exterior to the fire containment area through the cover panel
into the fire containment area and light traveling in the second direction travels
from the fire containment area through the cover panel into the area exterior to the
fireplace housing.

[c3] 3. The assembly in claim 1 wherein the cover panel is a one-way
mirror.

[c4] 4. The assembly in claim 1 wherein the cover panel includes a
reflective coating on one side of the cover panel.

[c5] 5. The assembly in claim 4, wherein the coating is a half-silvered
coating.

[c6] 6. The assembly in claim 1 wherein the at least a portion of the cover
panel is comprised of multiple layers.

[c7] 7. The assembly in claim 6 wherein at least a portion of at least one layer of the multiple layers is covered by a coating, and wherein the coating is configured to provide the first transmittance and the second transmittance.

[c8] 8. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least a portion of the cover panel includes multiple panel portions covering the opening in the fireplace housing.

[c9] 9. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
the fireplace housing having multiple openings in communication with the fire containment area; and
at least one of the multiple openings at least partially covered by at least one cover panel.

[c10] 10. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the cover panel is moveable relative to the fireplace housing between a first position covering at least a portion of the opening and a second position that allows access into fire containment area.

[c11] 11. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the cover panel includes a moveable door.

[c12] 12. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the cover panel has at least one surface that is generally a flat surface.

[c13] 13. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace housing is a housing for a direct-vent, gas-burning fireplace assembly, and further comprising:
a gas burner in the fire containment area.

[c14] 14. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace assembly includes an exterior housing and the cover panel is attached to the exterior housing.

[c15] 15. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace housing is a wall-mounted fireplace installation, and further comprising a frame surrounding the cover panel.

[c16] 16. A fireplace assembly, comprising:
a fireplace housing having an interior fire containment area and an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and
a cover panel covering at least a portion of the opening, at least a portion of the cover panel having a first light transmittance therethrough in a first direction inwardly from an exterior area through the cover panel and into the fire containment area, and the cover panel having a second light transmittance therethrough in a second direction outwardly from the fire containment area through the cover panel to the exterior area, the second light transmittance being greater than the first light transmittance.

[c17] 17. A fireplace assembly, comprising:
a fireplace housing having an interior fire containment area and an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and
a cover panel covering the opening in the fireplace housing, the cover panel includes a one-way mirror configured to have a first light transmittance therethrough in a first direction inwardly from an exterior area through the one-way mirror and into the fire containment area, and a second light transmittance greater than the first light transmittance and in a second direction outwardly from the fire containment area through the cover panel and to the exterior area.

[c18] 18. A fireplace installation assembly, comprising:
a fireplace housing having an interior fire containment area and an opening
in communication with the fire containment area; and
a cover panel covering at least a portion of the opening and configured with
a first visual characteristic that substantially blocks visibility into the
fire containment area from an area outside of the fire containment
area when there is not a fire in the fire containment area, and the
cover panel having a second visual characteristic different from the
first visual characteristic that makes the at least a portion of the
cover panel appear substantially transparent when a fire is burning
in the fire containment area allowing a person to see into the fire
containment area.

[c19] 19. A fireplace assembly, comprising:
a fireplace housing having an interior fire containment area and an opening
in communication with the fire containment area; and
a cover panel covering at least a portion of the opening, the cover panel
being a one-way mirror with a reflective surface oriented to provide a
mirrored surface visible from a position exterior of the fire
containment area when a fire is not burning in the fire containment
area and being substantially translucent or transparent from the
position exterior of the fire containment area when a fire is burning in
the fire containment area.

[c20] 20. A fireplace assembly, comprising:
a fireplace housing having a firebox with an opening;
a burner assembly in the firebox; and
a cover panel covering the opening in the firebox, the cover panel being a
one-way mirror.